



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WINTER WATERFOWL COUNT IN PACIFIC FLYWAY SHOWS SLIGHT INCREASE

The annual survey of wintering waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway showed an increase of approximately 5 percent in the number of ducks, geese, swan, brant, and coot over a year ago, the Department of the Interior announced today.

Paul T. Quick, regional director of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife in Portland, Oregon, said the number of ducks counted showed no significant change from last year. However, goose populations showed an increase of 25 percent while coot and swan populations increased 36 and 15 percent respectively. Black sea brant numbers were up 23 percent.

Redhead and canvasback ducks, which were protected by closed hunting seasons last year, showed increases of 40 and 10 percent.

Slight decreases in total wintering waterfowl were reported from Idaho, Nevada, and Arizona. Other areas, including Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, and the west coast of Mexico, which make up the remainder of the Pacific Flyway, reported slight to moderate increases.

A total of 352 State and Federal observers participated in this annual survey of wintering waterfowl. In addition to car and boat travel, 36 aircraft were utilized for aerial observation, flying in excess of 30,000 air miles.

The purpose of the annual survey is to gain an accurate estimate of total flyway populations of waterfowl remaining after the close of the hunting season and to record changes in the distribution pattern of wintering ducks and geese from year to year.

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